

PATENT
IBM Docket No. JP9-1999-0225

REMARKS

Status:

Claims 1 - 8 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being unpatentable over the teaching of US Pat. No. 5,068,890 to Nilssen considered in view of the teaching of the teaching of JP 04-334885 of Kiyofumi.

New Claims 16 - 26 are presented for consideration and are believed to strongly emphasize Applicants inventive contribution. Claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice.

Discussion:

Looking first to the Nilssen teaching, at Fig. 5 (discussed at Nilssen col. 10, lines 31-35) it is apparent that a specially designed cable is taught and the signal line (OSC) and power lines (MPC1, MPC2, APC1 and APC2) are independent. This is no teaching of using normal ceiling lamp wiring and sockets for retrofitting a wireless network to an existing building. This is not normal house or office wiring. This reference teaches a comprehensive wiring arrangement that is for the most part custom and requires cable (again see Fig. 5) that it is highly unlikely even to be available off the shelf. And, the only teaching of computer connection is hard wired (element SCC of Fig 4B of Nilssen).

The only wireless showing is for a telephone, but the signal does not travel on the power line to go from room to room. Again the teaching is for custom cabling and custom sockets with signal lines separate from power lines.

Applicant uses ceiling lamp sockets as are normal in offices and homes for introducing an access point for wireless. To connect between access points applicant recognized that the existing power lines (available at the ceiling lamp socket) could be used to transfer the signals so access points could be connected to be a network. To simplify

PATENT
IBM Docket No. JP9-1999-0225

the upgrade the control apparatus is configured to attach at a ceiling light socket and repeat the socket so room lighting is not lost to gain an access point.

A clever and simple upgrade. So appealing once seen. Quite apart from the total rework, customized approach of Nilssen.

How does Kiyofumi's teaching transform Nilssen. Firstly, Kiyofumi does not teach or suggest signal transfer on a power line, a major deficiency of Nilssen. And, the wireless that is taught is a one-way, single-purpose command signal like a garage door opener signal. Moreover, it appears Kiyofumi teaches a single lamp fixture not an insert with both socket and plug. Where is the repeated power socket as called for in Applicant's claims? This is not a retrofit to add an unrelated function, such as access to a network. It is a remote control embellishment to the lighting function. Why would one skilled in the art be led combine the teachings of Nilssen and Kiyofumi. And, even if combined, how would the result be more than adding remote wireless control to lamps FLM2 and FLM3 of Nilssen?

Applicant has emphasized, in the claims, the signaling over the power line between Applicants specially mounted unit's (see e.g. Claim 16, lines 9-10 and Claim 22, lines 11-12). Also emphasized is a repeated socket (See e.g. Claim 16, lines 12-13 and Claim 22 lines 14-15) to retain the lamp connection that was the original purpose for the ceiling socket. Neither appears in the prior art. These are significant features that make possible Applicant's low overhead solution to the problem of wireless network installation in existing structures, that has otherwise required major office or home disruption at considerable cost. Other significant aspects of the invention are emphasized in the various claims such as the use of the available power line at the ceiling socket to energize the communication apparatus.

PATENT
IBM Docket No. JP9-1999-0225

In accordance with the foregoing explanation, it is believed that this case has been placed in condition for allowance; and, early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


George E. Grosser

Reg. No. 25,629

c/o IBM Corporation
Personal Systems Group
Intellectual Property Law
Department 9CCA/Building 002-2
P. O. Box 12195
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

(919)968-7847
FAX: 919-254-2649
EMAIL: gegch@prodigy.net